

26th January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: Industrial strike action

As you may be aware from the recent media coverage, the National Education Union (NEU), announced that they had secured the necessary support in a ballot for industrial action. This is a national dispute with the government, regarding pay and school funding. I am writing to you today to reassure you about what might take place and what this will mean for your child.

Striking is the right of every teacher who is part of a union and is a personal choice, which we respect as a school. As the school's Headteacher, it is my primary responsibility to ensure our pupils receive the highest standard of education and care.

As a decision to strike has been made, we are now assessing the impact that this will have on our school. We are not always aware of precisely how many employees intend to join strike action. Individuals are not under any obligation to notify us in advance. That can make predicting the impact of action difficult. We hope to be able to remain open as much as possible during the strike, but we are aware that many of our teaching staff are members of the NEU and that, consequently, some class closures are likely on the following planned dates:

- **1st February (whole country strike)**
- **1st March (East Midlands, West Midlands, Eastern)**
- **15th March (whole country strike)**
- **16th March (whole country strike)**

As you know, the safety and wellbeing of our pupils is our top priority so either we will be able to continue with the school day as normal or, if there are not enough staff to safely have students on site, we will undertake a partial school closure where some classes are closed.

We will endeavour, where possible, regardless of industrial action to have sufficient staff onsite to welcome vulnerable children into the school and the children of critical workers. Vulnerable children will be prioritised first and families will be notified directly if we are able to accommodate their children regardless of any partial closures. Where we are able to welcome in the children of critical workers, we will prioritise the children of front line, critical workers in hospitals, adult social care and education.

We will write to you as soon as possible to communicate arrangements for Wednesday 1st February and will keep forward dates under review. We will keep you updated with any further important information that arises. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school office or a senior member of our team.

If you are employed as a front line, critical worker in hospital, adult social care or education and you would like us to accommodate your child in the event their class is closed, please inform the office by email by Monday 30th January at 10am (office@arbury.cambs.sch.uk). Please give your child's name and class, your job title and your employer.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding during this time.

Ben Tull
Headteacher
Arbury Primary School